

and is well represented here in Washington by Ambassador Canahuat.

The Republic of Guatemala is ably served and well led by a freely elected and democratically elected President, His Excellency President Partillo and well represented here in Washington, Guatemala is, by Ambassador Arenalas. And last, and of course equally important, is the Republic Nicaragua, a country that is well led by a freely elected and democratically elected President, His Excellency President Balanos and is well represented here in Washington by Ambassador Marias.

Again, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, all led by freely elected, democratically elected presidents and well represented here in Washington by their diplomatic corps; but they share our values. They share our values and support for democracy.

Last, recognizing that we have a great opportunity, an opportunity to integrate the economies of the five nations of Central America and the United States with the Central American Free Trade Agreement. It is a great opportunity for all of our nations.

Central America represents the United States' largest export market. There are 34 million people who live in Central America, with a combined gross domestic product of almost 57 billion U.S. dollars. The United States exports to Central America total over \$9 billion, which includes such product items as machinery, high-tech goods, motor vehicles, chemicals, energy, food, agricultural products, textiles, apparel, paper, and fertilizer. In fact, it is important to note that the five Central American nations today represent more trade for the United States' trading partners than the trade we currently have with the nations of India, Russia, and Australia combined. Clearly, our allies are a key part of our economy and important trading partners.

U.S. services exports to Central America today total over \$2 billion and include such top services such as aviation, telecom, tourism, banking and financial services. Such exports to the region have grown by 42 percent since 1996. Think about that. Service exports to Central America have grown by 42 percent in 7 years. Every dollar today that we as Americans spend on a good produced in Central America has yielded \$1.36 in demand for American goods from and purchases by our Central American allies and friends.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement offers tremendous opportunity for American workers and businesses, but it also stands to offer a model for a regional trade agreement and will be a key building block for the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. We must align ourselves with our Latin American friends to compete in today's global economy.

Es claro que tenemos gran oportunidad para todos los paises en

Centro America y los Estados Unidos para integrar mas nuestras economias con el Acuerdo de Libre Cambio Americano Centro. Esta semana sus negociadores y nuestros negociadores tienen un reunion en Managua, Nicaragua, para clarificar este acuerdo y para terminarlo para la ratificacion temprano en dos mil cuatro por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos.

Our nations have much to gain by reducing barriers between our economies. We agree that free trade will create jobs and new opportunities for the citizens of all our nations. We agree that CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, must be mutually beneficial and fair to all six nations, ours as well as theirs. We in the Western Hemisphere can and must work together to compete in the global economy.

Again, my colleagues and I extend our congratulations to our Central American neighbors on their independence day and recognize our Hispanic and Latino citizens during this month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. We stand with you in solidarity for freedom; we stand with you in solidarity for democracy; we stand with you in solidarity for trade.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. STEARNS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 1:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of attending his son's wedding.

Mr. MILLER of Florida (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. PLATTS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a memorial service in the district for a soldier killed in Iraq.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CUMMINGS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BALDWIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SMITH of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her re-

marks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KIRKPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 13. An act to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 659. An act to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act regarding the requirements for mortgage insurance under such Act for hospitals.

H.R. 978. An act to amend chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that certain Federal annuity computations are adjusted by 1 percentage point relating to periods of receiving disability payments, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 520. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho.

S. 678. An act to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters' organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 18, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4294. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Control of Emissions From New Marine Diesel Engines [AMS-FRL-7561-4] received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4295. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment for the Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, Arizona [AZ-094-FOAa; FRL-7561-5] received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4296. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Federal Plan Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerators Constructed on or Before November 30, 1999 [AD-FRL-7562-1] (RIN: 2060-AJ28) received

September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4297. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Asbestos [OAR-2002-0082, FRL-7561-2] received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4298. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Supplemental Rule Regarding a Recycling Standard Under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act; Correction [FRL-7560-9] (RIN: 2060-AF36) received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4299. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — FM Table of Allotment, FM Broadcast Stations, (Sonora, Texas) [MB Docket No. 03-88, RM-10464] received September 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4300. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Table of Allotments, Fm Broadcast Stations, (Port St. Joe and Eastpoint, Florida) [MB Docket No. 03-21, RM-10632; RM-10696] received September 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4301. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast (Anchorage, Alaska) [MM Docket No. 00-99, RM-9858] received September 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4302. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act on the export of goods or technology; to the Committee on International Relations.

4303. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report strengthening certain sanctions against missile technology proliferation activities; to the Committee on International Relations.

4304. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on the status of consultations on the imposition of sanctions for chemical weapons; to the Committee on International Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAUZIN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1813. A bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-261, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2572.

A bill to authorize appropriations for the benefit of Amtrak for fiscal years 2004 through 2006, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-274). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TAUZIN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3038. A bill to make certain technical and conforming amendments to correct the Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002 (Rept. 108-275). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House of the State of the Union.

Mr. TAUZIN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3034. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-276). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. FORBES, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. JENKINS, and Ms. HART):

H.R. 3106. A bill to strengthen the law enabling the United States to expeditiously remove terrorist criminals, to add flexibility with respect to the places to which aliens may be removed, to give sufficient authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General to remove aliens who pose a danger to national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. WATT, Ms. WATERS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. FORD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MAJETTE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3107. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for property owners who remove lead-based paint hazards; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOEHNER (for himself, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. PORTMAN):

H.R. 3108. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELLER (for himself, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

H.R. 3109. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Celia Cruz; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BONILLA:

H.R. 3110. A bill to specify locations where certain citizens and nationals of Mexico may be removed from the United States into Mexico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. UPTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. CASE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LINDER, Mr. NORWOOD, and Mr. EHLERS):

H.R. 3111. A bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EHLERS:

H.R. 3112. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish programs to facilitate international and interstate trade; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FLAKE:

H.R. 3113. A bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOLEY:

H.R. 3114. A bill to provide that adjustments in rates of pay for Members of Congress may not exceed any cost-of-living increases in benefits under title II of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSSELLA:

H.R. 3115. A bill to prevent a State or unit of local government from using Federal funds to assist prosecutors unless the State or unit provides information to the Department of Homeland Security on individuals convicted of crimes for use by the Department in identifying immigration violations by such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSSELLA:

H.R. 3116. A bill to amend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 to extend the deadline for filing a claim to December 31, 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSSELLA:

H.R. 3117. A bill to amend certain provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to disability annuities for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and members of the Capitol Police; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAYES (for himself, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. COBLE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BALLANCE, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BEAUPREZ, and Mrs. MYRICK):